

Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 ACDA-07 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /064 W

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O P 230525Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

CINCPACREPPHIL PRIORITY

13AF PRIORITY

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2004

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE A-4 TRAINING

REF: MANILA 5546

1. GOS MINDEF PERMANENT SECRETARY PANG TEE POW CONFIRMED TO ME APRIL 23 THAT PHILIPPINE DIPLOMATIC NOTE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING ENDORSING A-4 TRAINING IN PHILIPPINES FOR SINGAPORE PILOTS. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT TECHNICAL TEAM FROM SINGAPORE WOULD ARRIVE IN MANILA APRIL 25 TO LOOK INTO FACILITIES AT CUBI.

2. RE FIRST OF POINTS RAISED IN REFTEL PARA 3, I GATHER THE WHOLE QUESTION OF USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES AND AIR
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SPACE TO REPLACE TO SOME DEGREE USE OF UTAPAO IS UNDER

INTER-AGENCY SOKDY. ONCE WE DETERMINE OUR REQUIREMENTS (LARGE OR SMALL), WE THINK THESE HIGHLY DELICATE AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP SEPARATELY WITH GOS RATHER THAN MAKING THEM A DIRECT QUID PRO QUO FOR TRAINING OF A-4S AT CUBI. WE ARE, HOWEVER, CONCERNED OVER GOS EFFORT TO CHARGE US FOR USE OF BERTHS 6 AND 7 AT SEMBAWANG, AND I KNOW THAT SINGAPORE MINDEF IS CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE HIGH COST OF USING OUR FACILITIES AT CUBI. AS SUGGESTED SEPTEL I THINK WE CAN USE GOS INTEREST IN CUBI AS WAY OF CAUSING GOS TO DROP ITS EFFORT TO CHARGE OUR NAVY SHIPS HIGH FEES FOR USING ITS PORT FACILITIES PROVIDED WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER GOS USE OF CUBI FOR RELATIVELY NOMINAL COST. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN DOING THIS, I THINK WE WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO TACKLE SUCH DELICATE QUESTIONS AS P-3S WITHOUT HAVING SERIOUS COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS INTRODUCED IN TO THE EQUATION. WILLINGNESS OF US TO BE FORTHCOMING OVER CUBI WILL, WE THINK HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US.

3. ON SECOND POITH IN PARA 3, NEED FOR A SOFA IN SINGAPORE APPEARS REMOTE, AT LEAST AS WE SEE IT HERE. IN EVENT ISSUE DOES ARISE, HOWEVER, I DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT SINGAPORE WILL WANT TERMS WHICH DIFFER IN ANY WAY FROM THOSE WE WORK OUT WITH THE PHILIPPINES ON MATTERS SUCH AS CRIMINAL JURISDICTION. FURTHERMORE, WE THINK GOS WOULD UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN ON THIS MATTER AND WOULD REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY APPROACH WHICH WOULD UNDERCUT OUR POSITION.

4. ON POINT REGARDING POSSIBILITY THAT TAIWANESE OFFICERS WILL BE INVOLVED SOMEHOW IN A-4 TRAINING, OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IF ANY OFFICERS ARE TO COME FROM TAIWAN THEY WILL BE EXCLUSIVELY AT AIR STAFF LEVEL. SINGAPORE'S A-4 SQUADRONS ARE NOW COMMANDED AND MANNED ENTIRELY BY SINGAPOREANS, AND WE EXPECT THEM TO STAY THAT WAY. I SEE NO PROBLEM, THOUGH, IN INDICATING TO APPROPRIATE GOS OFFICIALS THE EXTRA COMPLEXITIES WHICH WOULD BE CREATED BY PRESENCE OF TAIWAN OFFICERS AT CUBI.

5. I HOPE THAT WHEN SINGAPORE TEAM DOES VISIT CUBI, THERE WILL BE NO HINT ON OUR PART OF "STONEWALLING." IF INDEED WE DO WANT SOMETHING

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FROM SINGAPORE, WE WILL HARDLY SUCCEED IN OUR PURPOSE IF WE APPEAR TO BE HOLDING THE SINGAPOREANS OFF AT ARM'S LENGTH ON SOMETHING THEY WANT VERY BADLY.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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